CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Sub A2 1. A system for forming a pivot, comprising:

a first member;

a second member; and

a pivot structure having a head, a body connected to the head, a stop and a lip, the body extending through the first member and the second member, the first member having a plastically deformed region receiving the head, the lip being deformed generally towards the stop to prevent separation of the second member from the first member during relative pivotal motion between the first and the second member.

Sub B, 7 2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the body has a generally circular cross-section.

3. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the lip encircles the stop.

4. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the body comprises a relief cut proximate the head to receive material from the first member during formation of the plastically deformed region.

5. The system as recited in claim 2, wherein the head has a plurality of flat sides.

6. The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the flat sides are arranged in a hexagon.

7. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the first member is formed from a metal sheet material.

8. The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the metal sheet material is a portion of a computer chassis.

9. A method of creating a pivot, comprising:

placing a pivot structure with a head, a body, a stop and a retention feature proximate a first member;

moving the body through the first member until the head plastically deforms the first member;

pivotably mounting a second member to a portion of the body extending through the first member; and

deforming the retention feature with a tool until the tool strikes the stop.

10. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein moving comprises moving the body through an opening formed in the first member.

11. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein deforming comprises bending the retention feature.

12. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein deforming comprises bending a generally circular retention feature surrounding the stop.

13. The method as recited in claim 9, further comprising selecting a gap between the head and the deformed retention feature by selecting a desired distance between the head and the stop.

14. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein moving comprises moving the body through a sheet metal portion of the first member.

15. The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising forming a hole through the sheet metal portion sufficiently large to permit unobstructed passage of the body while obstructing passage of the head.

16. A device that may be secured to a first member through plastic deformation of the first member and to which a second member may be mounted for relative pivotal motion between the first member and the second member, comprising:

a body;

a head disposed at one end of the body;

a deformable retention member disposed at a generally opposite end of the body from the head; and

a stop positioned a predetermined distance from the head to permit control of the deformation of the deformable retention member.

17. The device as recited in claim 16, wherein the deformable retention member comprises a generally circular lip.

18. The device as recited in claim 17, wherein the stop is disposed within the generally circular lip.

19. The device as recited in claim 18, wherein the head comprises a plurality of flat sides to better secure the head to the first member during plastic deformation of the first member.

B1

20. The device as recited in claim 19, wherein the body comprises a relief region proximate the head.

add B17